

philanthropy at Stanford University, UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and Laney Community College, in Oakland, California. Bill was honored with the 2004 Gerbode Fellowship Award in recognition of outstanding achievement as a nonprofit executive and is a founding member of the National Advisory Board of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University. He has also been an advisor to the Dean of the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare and serves as an advisor to the Peery Family Foundation and the Junior League of Palo Alto.

Bill is the author, with Fred Setterberg, of *Grassroots Philanthropy: Field Notes of a Maverick Grantmaker*, a guide to creative grantmaking. In it, according to the *Financial Times*, May 2008, "Somerville describes in engaging prose how to be an effective philanthropist. With no agenda other than his need to set things right in the world, he lays out a series of principles that can be adopted by both endowed national foundations and those with lesser means, providing they have an urge to use their wealth to improve the world."

Bill Somerville's career as a maverick grantmaker spans 50 years in nonprofit work. In 1990, he founded Philanthropic Ventures Foundation (PVF) which specializes in creative giving programs customized to donors' interests. Under his stewardship, PVF has distinguished itself as a leader in "venture philanthropy," a term coined by Somerville to describe PVF's quick-response, high-impact grant mode, including immediate response grants and paperless giving.

Larry Purcell, the highly respected founder of the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, California, reports that more than 40 years ago he and Bill Somerville became teamsters for the poor by picking up free fresh produce from the South San Francisco Produce Terminal. The Catholic Worker House has continued to distribute thousands of pounds of produce each week, using three 15,000-pound trucks acquired through Bill Somerville's generosity and that of Philanthropic Ventures. A decade ago, Bill Somerville and Philanthropic Ventures Foundation gave the Catholic Worker House seed money to purchase a two-bedroom house in Redwood City for day laborers. In 2018 Bill Somerville and Philanthropic Ventures Foundation provided seed money for Catholic Workers to buy a home in Oakland to house men coming out of San Quentin State Prison. Meanwhile, Catholic Workers in Redwood City, San Bruno, San Jose, and Santa Maria, California, have been feeding, clothing, sheltering, and educating the very poor by the thousands. Bill Somerville and Philanthropic Ventures Foundation have supported each of those Catholic Worker Houses in magnificent ways. According to Purcell, Bill Somerville is great, humble, dedicated, and serves the poor with deep, deep kindness.

In *Grassroots Philanthropy* Bill said "Philanthropy is a fascinating pursuit. It's the stuff of dreams made practical, a lever that can move the world. Philanthropy is a subject about which I remain unequivocally and unapologetically passionate."

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the extraordinary work of an extraordinary man, Bill Somerville, and thanking him for his unique leadership. He has strengthened our communities and bettered our nation through his vi-

sion, passion, and integrity, and he stands as a role model of what a citizen can do to create transformative change in the lives of so many.

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RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN & HI TECH

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Indiana based nonprofit, Women & Hi Tech. Founded in 1999, the organization seeks to promote the participation of women in science and technology fields, and to ensure that opportunities in STEM jobs are equally inclusive for all. The organization has demonstrated consistent leadership in our community and helped open doors for many women. The people of the Fifth Congressional District are grateful for Women & Hi Tech, and it is my pleasure to congratulate the organization in celebration of this special occasion.

In 1999, two women leaders in our community, Joyce Gustafson, a scientist working for Eli Lilly, and Georgia Miller, an academic at Indiana University, discovered that there were few women like themselves working in high tech jobs in Indiana. Together, they sought to create an organization that would fill the gaps they saw in women leaders in the Indianapolis area. Their initial launch saw much support from the community, including many professionals in a wide variety of industries. The first Board of Directors of Women & Hi Tech included Jennifer Sander, Donna Gastevich, Jamie Eicher, Lisa Robertson, Jennifer Scheerer, Sue Ream, Suzanne Nutter, Cindy Royer, and Julie Nahvi. Other significant contributions to Women & Hi Tech in its infancy were provided by Susan E. Ziel, Esq., a female attorney who drafted and filed the organization's incorporation documents, and other women and men who have served on the organization's all-volunteer Board of Directors over the years.

With a mission to make careers in STEM equally inclusive to all, Women & Hi Tech has grown its membership to nearly 2,000 professionals and students. Their focus is broad. Some programs support girls as young as kindergarten, while others support women in academic careers and on to their professional lives. Programs like Passport to Hi-Tech and Ignite Your Superpower (IYS) teach young girls about the wide variety of opportunities available to them in science and technology fields, while simultaneously connecting them with leaders already working in those fields. Other programs including OperationAll, Executive Women's Forums and the Leading Light Awards focus on working professionals, educating and empowering them to achieve higher in their careers. They also hold seasonal networking events, which are held at notable locations around Indiana like the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and serve to reinforce their already robust series of education and empowerment programs.

Women & Hi Tech continues to invest into the future of our community through their efforts to build lasting partnerships with local businesses. These partnerships give the organization a unique ability to support women in

a wide variety of industries, and for a wide variety of purposes. For example, as part of their #WHT20for20 campaign, Women & Hi Tech will be donating over \$30,000 in scholarships and grants to Indiana women and girls pursuing STEM. Directed primarily at women pursuing academic goals, these funds open doors and provide opportunities that are of immense value. It is programs like this that allow the organization to attract a large number of professionals and students, from across many sectors of our economy, to its ranks.

Women & Hi Tech has done, and continues to do, great things for the people of Indiana. Under the leadership of President Angela Freeman, I am confident that the organization will continue growing and succeeding. Many of the most influential leaders in our community give their time to help this organization succeed, and it is my great pleasure to congratulate Women & Hi Tech on 20 years of service. I commend them on their continuing mission of empowerment of women leaders in our community, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

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RECOGNIZING THE NORTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work, dedication, and outstanding service our County Veteran Service Officers provide in assisting veterans in Northeast Wisconsin.

County Veteran Service Officers are self-appointed, concerned veterans who take it upon themselves to aid and assist fellow veterans and survivors with benefits and resources. The first CVSO in Wisconsin was appointed in 1932. In 1935, the Wisconsin CVSO Association was established, and in 1946, Wisconsin passed legislation requiring each county to hire a CVSO who served in the Armed Forces.

For nearly 90 years, Wisconsin CVSOs have led the way in connecting veterans and their families with benefit programs. CVSOs work hard to provide caring counseling, assistance, and advocacy for veterans in need.

I am incredibly proud of the work our CVSOs from Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, and Winnebago counties, and our Tribal Veteran Service Officers from the Oneida Nation, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians and Ho-Chunk Nation provide for Northeast Wisconsin. These officers and their staff are key to the success of veterans who look for assistance as they transition to civilian life.

I am proud to have such quality County Veteran Service Officers and Tribal Veteran Service Officers in my district. The task of being a CVSO is not always easy. These officers are veterans who served our nation, returned home, and continue their service in our communities. These men and women truly demonstrate what it means to engage in selfless service.